



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Ramaz KATSARAVA et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1615  
)  
Application Number: 09/757,704 ) Examiner: To Be Assigned  
)  
Filed: January 11, 2001 )  
)  
For: POLYMER BLENDS AS BIODEGRADABLE MATRICES FOR PREPARING  
BIOCOMPOSITES

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Bel  
1-12-03

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**ATTN: BOX MISSING PARTS**  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced, please enter the following preliminary amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1, 6, 7, 9, and 17, with the following claims, and add new claims 18-23 provided in a clean format in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. A marked-up version of the claims, showing the changes Applicants have made are in Appendix A.

1. (Amended) A bioerodable construct for controlled release of bioactive materials, said construct comprising a blend of two or more poly(ester-amide) polymers (PEA) prepared by polymerizing a diol (D), a dicarboxylic acid (C) and an alpha-amino acid (A) through ester and amide links in the form (DACA)<sub>n</sub>.

wherein the PEA polymer has the formula:

